

TOWNSHIPS UNITED FOR REINFORCING FREEDOM
(TURF)

Zoning, flood control are products of 'fourth branch' TURF learns

Ts OCT 10 1983

By Joe Baker
Tribune-Star Staff Reporter

Representatives of the Committee to Restore the Constitution, addressing opponents of area zoning and flood control, raised the spectre of regional governments in the U.S. seeking to control private property and curtail individual liberties.

The more than 50 members of the Townships United for Reinforcing Freedom received committee calling cards from Paul Double and Betty Mills, both of Fort Wayne, saying, "Today, 'regionalism,' a Socialist form of government, finalizes the 'invisible government' plot to achieve world dominion through control of money, people and resources."

Double said zoning and flood control are two products of an unelected federal bureaucracy that he called a fourth branch of govern-

ment. "The politicians we can kick them out; the bureaucrats, they have a job for life."

About proponents' claims that flood control is necessary because a 1 percent chance exists that a catastrophic flood will occur within 100 years, Double said, "Who's going to be around that long to prove these bureaucrats wrong?"

Mills said legislation is coming under increasing influence from the Advisory Commission in Intergovernmental Relations (ACIR). "The ACIR feeds them (legislators) thousands of bills and it always comes out that they didn't have time to read them."

She indicated the ACIR, established in 1959 under the Eisenhower administration, is the U.S.'s response to United Nations' quest for restructuring the world economic order, replacing political boundaries with economic ones.

Products of ACIR influence in-

clude the Law Enforcement Agency Administration, which "laid the groundwork for computerizing every area of the U.S.," Mills said, adding, "It took over total law enforcement, if the truth was known."

An LEAA byproduct was the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) which she said, "Is the deadliest thing you'll ever meet."

The Carter administration's plan for when an emergency occurs portends, "Total control over land, humans, guns, you name it. FEMA is your police power," the staunch National Rifle Association proponent contended.

She said a Billionaire Cartel, representing world business and economic interests, is a greater threat to the U.S. than the Soviet Union.

About acid-rain legislation, he said, "It's to get the keys out of your automobile."

Community Affairs File

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

(TURF)

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS FILE
TURF (Vigo Co.) JUN 13 1983

TURF debates sewer problem at meeting

Discussion of the extension of a sanitary sewer to areas for industrial expansion highlighted a meeting of members of Townships United for Reinforcing Freedom Sunday at Blackhawk's volunteer fire department.

Members of TURF also voted to proceed with adopting a constitution and by-laws during its monthly meeting in Blackhawk Sunday.

Nearly 22 TURF members attended and voted to proceed with incorporation, said Robert Johnson, TURF chairman. The group will seek nonprofit status.

The question of the extension of a sanitary sewer for industrial expansion at International Mineral and Chemicals and a joint venture between Applied Computing Devices and Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology received much attention during Sunday's meeting.

"We're not opposed to progress," Johnson said Sunday. But he be-

lieves higher priority should go to residents within the sanitary district who have paid taxes for many years and still do not have sanitary sewers.

TURF, a grassroots organization, opposed to the proposed county comprehensive plan, is about one-year old. Its supporters turned out in large numbers last summer during a round of 16 public hearings on the county plan.

The goal of the group is to defeat the proposed county plan and any attempts for a countywide zoning ordinance, according to earlier statements.

According to Gerald Brett, executive director of Vigo County Area Planning, the department recently received a draft copy of the city's comprehensive plan. It is also completing a sanitary landfill study, and must include flood plain information in the plan.

Community Affairs File

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

TURF - (TOWNSHIPS UNITED FOR REINFORCING FREEDOM)

Community Affairs File

associations (Vigo Co.) *Community Affairs File*
TURF trying to avoid going 'down the river'

Ts JUL 11 1983
Townships United for Reinforcing Freedom — or TURF — is now TURF Inc. with a first day membership of 27 persons.

The organization, formed about a year ago to fight the proposed Vigo County Comprehensive Plan, has filed for non-profit status with the Indiana Secretary of State.

Plans are to form special interest

groups to monitor public meetings such as the Vigo County School Corp., Sanitary District and the Vigo County Plan Commission.

"Sometimes we find out too late they sold us down the river," TURF President Robert Johnson said, referring to elected officials.

During a TURF meeting in Black Hawk Sunday, Johnson also said

that he "heard it said" that the Area Plan Commission doesn't intend "to make a permanent book" of its comprehensive plan. "The Area Plan Commission doesn't want to bring this before the public."

"They (Area Plan Commission) have made no effort to compile the material," Carl Gregory, chairman of the Nevins Township TURF

group, said. "They do not, at this time, plan to have a complete, edited, comprehensive plan."

Bill Harader, treasurer, said the Area Plan Commission is "working on the same principle as the editor of the newspaper — any plan is better than no plan." Harader was referring to an editorial in Sunday's Tribune-Star.

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Vigo County Public Library

TURF

members

Community Affairs File

Candidates court local TURF

By Joe Baker
Tribune-Star Staff Reporter

Candidates running for federal, state and local offices addressed 150 members of Townships United for Reinforcing Freedom during the organization's banquet on Sunday.

Arthur E. Smith, Lafayette, is running against Carl R. Greening, Crawfordsville, both of whom are Democrats seeking to unseat Rep. John Myers, R-Seventh District.

Smith showed off his experience as a former aide to U.S. Rep. Floyd Fithian, D-Ind., on a House Agriculture Committee. He voiced favor for tax programs to spur farm conservation efforts and urged an unbridling of trade restrictions to boost farm exports abroad.

Greening, who is a former aide to State Sen. Wayne Townsend, D-Hartford City,

said, as an opponent of lobby pressure, "I want to stand for you." He described himself as against busing and government subsidy of abortion. An advocate of the nuclear-freeze movement, the candidate said he also favors "taking government out of farming."

Seeking the same state representative post are Rep. John J. Thomas, Brazil, who is running unopposed in the Republican primary, and John W. Tipton, Center Point, who is running unopposed in the Democratic primary.

Thomas said he looks to his constituents for guidance on issues and Tipton said being a retired teacher, "I am old enough to stand on principle."

Incumbent 42nd District Rep. Lee Clingan, Covington, who is running in the Democratic primary against Leo Reposh Jr., Clinton, cited two resolutions he supported in the House, opposing the U.S. Federal Reserve System and its practice

of printing more money to pay \$130 billion interest on the national debt.

Reposh, who lives in rural Vermillion County, said as a citizen he does not want city services and taxes and is opposed to annexation. "I don't want to move to town and I don't want the town to move to me," he said.

Incumbent Rep. Robert Hellmann, D-Terre Haute, who said, "I'll confess, I'm a politician," added that he has the ability to reconcile competing interests.

Hellmann, who will be running unopposed in District 43 in both the primary and November's general election, reminded TURF supporters that he had input on a law that no longer required countywide zoning to follow passage of land-use planning.

Rep. Vern Tincher, D-Riley, lauded TURF, saying, "Without your organization, you'd all be zoned," also took some

measure of credit for the General Assembly passage of a \$3 million telecommunications improvement project for Indiana State University and a \$4.6 million expansion project at the local IvyTech campus.

Tincher is unopposed in the primary, but will face ISU professor William Harader, Terre Haute, in November. Harader, who favors utility and education reforms, voiced regret for erosion of controls on property taxes, which he said were "the most unfair taxes we have."

Taxation within the Terre Haute Sanitary District, in which some people are taxed but are not hooked onto the district's sewer line, is the result of "taxation without representation," Harader said. He said he would press for an elected board of sanitary commissioners.

Also, Harader urged county commissioners' veto power over "satellite zoning." The Terre Haute City Council last year annexed some county property, unconnected to the city, to accommodate International Minerals and Chemicals Inc. in East Glen.

Those running for Vigo County commissioner who spoke were: Democrat Harold L. Brauer, 2nd District; Democrat Rosemary Roberts, 2nd District; Republican George W. Morris, 2nd District; Democrat William J. Decker, 3rd District; Democrat P. James Diehl, 3rd District; and Republican Larry Williams, 3rd District.

Running for County Council are Democrats Robert M. Conrad, Wilburn R. Ennen, Thomas C. Fitzpatrick, Clyde R. Kersey Jr., James B. Scheidemantle, John F. Walsh, Max Coopriider and Frank Kaperak; and Republicans are James H. Birdsall, Edison M. Wester, Virgil Russell and Harley Stewart.

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Approved planning motion one step in right direction for TURF

Ts SEP 10 1984

By Sue Loughlin
Tribune-Star Staff Reporter

It was one small step — maybe even one large step — in favor of Townships United for Reinforcing Freedom.

That's how Robert Johnson, TURF president, described a motion approved by the Vigo County Area Plan Commission on Wednesday endorsing an effort to change the state law which makes a county zoning ordinance mandatory after a comprehensive plan has been adopted.

"I think we obtained a small step in the right direction ... or maybe a large step in the right direction," Johnson said during TURF's meeting Sunday in the Prairieton firehouse. Approximately 25

persons attended Sunday's meeting.

TURF would like zoning to be permissive, or optional, rather than mandatory.

Members of the plan commission's policy committee will meet with TURF to work toward the change, draft a letter in support of the effort and try to set up meetings with state legislators.

Though members of the commission said it might be difficult to change the state law, Johnson was a little more optimistic. "They said it's hard to do, but I don't believe it."

Johnson, William Harader, Don Pound and Virgil Cesinger will represent TURF in the effort to get the law changed.

"We may not get the law changed, but we can get their [legislators'] attention," Johnson

said.

Johnson said if TURF members and supporters were presented with a plan beneficial to the whole county — without the fear of zoning — "it might be something we can live with."

In other matters, Johnson said that once the plan is completed and printed, each township should have meetings to go through it and to discuss it.

"That's the only way we'll get our side of it out," he said.

The plan commission approved a separate motion Wednesday for a public meeting to discuss the plan.

Brett said he hopes to have the plan completed by the end of September. It is now in the final revision stage.

Johnson was skeptical that the plan would come out before the November election.

Community Affairs File

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Vigo County Public Library

Associations (UN)
TURF

Comprehensive plan catching TURF's eye

T s AUG 13 1984

Community Affairs File

By Sue Loughlin
Tribune-Star Staff Reporter

With revision of the county comprehensive plan nearing completion, members of Townships United for Reinforcing Freedom are watching with close interest — and preparing to gather their forces.

"We might as well get prepared to fight it," Robert Johnson, TURF president, told about 13 persons at Sunday's TURF meeting in City Hall.

He said TURF members will get the word out for members to be present at the Sept. 5 Area Plan Commission meeting, when commission members are scheduled to receive copies of the revised plan.

Action on the plan is set for October.

Johnson told those attending that "everything has been real quiet" regarding the com-

prehensive plan.

He made reference to local newspaper articles, including one in which Gerald Brett, executive director of the Vigo County Area Planning Department, said the section on zoning would be deleted.

Johnson said that according to state law, once a comprehensive plan is passed, a zoning ordinance must follow.

The TURF president said the group would like to see the state law changed to make countywide zoning optional rather than mandatory.

Johnson also referred to an editorial which traced part of the Wabash Valley's economic stagnation to lack of a comprehensive plan and zoning.

The Aug. 9 editorial referred to "misguided voices from the 18th century" as one reason why a plan has failed to be implemented.

"I'm proud to be an 18th century voice," Johnson said, listing off such 18th century figures as

Thomas Jefferson, George Washington and John Adams.

They were a group "spirited enough to defy existing government," Johnson said. What developed "is the greatest country on earth."

Johnson said that TURF's interest is in equity for the whole county.

"The thing we have to do is confront them [planning officials] time and time again ... until we get something worthwhile for everyone in the county," Johnson stated.

Johnson also said he wanted to see the list of industries that have refused to locate in the county for lack of a comprehensive plan and zoning.

He said that once copies of the plan are available, groups will have to assemble and analyze the plan.

He speculated that the November election might forestall action on the plan.

About 200 persons are members of TURF, Johnson said.

Community Affairs File

Vigo County Public Library

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE